

The ART of DISCOVERY

Childhood's Gift of Wonder: Remembrance of Journeys Past

The Art of Discovery explores shared cultural stories evoked by art and travel, pairing an emerging artist with an artisan specializing in hospitality. For the second installment, New York multimedia artist Uta Bekaia and Ritz-Carlton's Events and Wedding Planner Madalena Pinto created works inspired by the theme "Favorite Travel Memory from Childhood."

Uta Bekaia remembers crafting some of his most imaginative pieces after he returned from a journey. As a child in Tbilisi, Georgia, he spent idyllic summers in the mountains, hiding in the flowers every day and pretending to be part of them. The feeling still moves him. "It was an important phase of my childhood—and my life. I felt such unity with nature."

Georgia was then part of the Soviet Union, and Bekaia, the only boy in an affectionate family, enjoyed his carefree romps within a bubble of safety. "I still find myself trying to re-create that childhood dreamland in my life and with my art," he says.

Almost 3,000 miles from Tbilisi, the Penha Longa Resort in Sintra, Portugal, enjoys a growing popularity with families because of its wide range of activities. Children's visits remind Madalena Pinto, the resort's events and wedding planner, of the story "Alice in Wonderland"—a time of curiosity and discovery.

Raised in a small Portuguese town, Pinto cherishes memories of a road trip through Europe as a young



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: A costume designed for performance art and an artful plate inspired by a classic children's tale.

TITLETK



PHOTO: LEVANI MINDASHVILI

PHEROMONE

girl, when she first heard foreign languages, saw snow, and explored new food and cultures. She felt a powerful connection with Alice.

Pinto considers her love of surprise and new experiences indispensable in creating unique and memorable events at the resort. For "The Art of Discovery," she produced her own version of the moment when Alice reads "drink me" on a bottle and decides to fearlessly embrace her new adventure.

"Children can be your best and worst guests," she says. "Their minds are exploring everything you offer, every moment you give them. And they are refreshingly honest. If they don't like something, you'll hear about it."

A childhood sense of innocence and wonder is still part of these artists' magical journeys. Visit Madalena Pinto at Penha Longa Resort for more memorable experiences.



THE RITZ-CARLTON®

To learn more, visit ritzcarlton.com/artofthecraft

FINE HOTELS & RESORTS

When you book your RITZ-CARLTON stay through the FINE HOTELS & RESORTS program and pay with your American Express® Card, receive access to complimentary benefits including:

- Noon check in upon arrival, when available
- Room upgrade upon arrival, when available*
- Daily breakfast for two people
 - 4pm late checkout
- Additional special amenity unique to each property, such as a \$100 food and beverage credit or a massage for two people**

TO BOOK YOUR STAY, VISIT AMERICANEXPRESS.COM/FHR OR CALL PLATINUM TRAVEL SERVICE AT 800-525-3355.

See program terms and conditions for additional details

*Certain room categories are not eligible for upgrade; call Platinum Travel Service for details

**Benefits vary by property; call Platinum Travel Service for details

TERMS & CONDITIONS: Valid only for new FINE HOTELS & RESORTS bookings made through Platinum Travel Service, Business Platinum Travel, Centurion Travel Service, americanexpress.com/fhr, any American Express travel agency or the Agency Services Desk. Payment must be made with an American Express Card in the U.S. Platinum Card® member's or U.S. Centurion Card® member's name. Card member must travel on itinerary booked to be eligible for benefits described. Noon check-in and room upgrade are based on availability and are provided at check-in. Certain room categories are not eligible for room upgrade; call Platinum or Centurion Travel Service for details. Breakfast amenity varies by property, but will be, at a minimum, a continental breakfast. Benefit restrictions vary by FINE HOTELS & RESORTS property and cannot be redeemed for cash, and may not be combined with other offers unless indicated. Benefits and additional FINE HOTELS & RESORTS promotions are only applied at checkout and expire at checkout. Limit one benefit package per room, per stay. Three-room limit per Card member, per stay; back-to-back stays within a 24-hour period at the same property considered one stay. Participating FINE HOTELS & RESORTS properties and benefits are subject to change.

American Express Travel Related Services Company, Inc. acts solely as sales agent for travel suppliers and is not responsible for the actions or inactions of such suppliers. We want you to be aware that certain suppliers pay us commissions and other incentives for reaching sales targets or other goals, and may also provide incentives to our travel counselors. For more information please visit www.americanexpress.com/travelterms.

California CST# 1022318-10, Rhode Island ML# 1192, Washington UBI# 600-469-694, Iowa TA# 002, Nevada NV# 2001-0126.

